

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5432

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, SF

SUBJ: REACTIONS TO CAPE TOWN RIOTING

SUMMARY: OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH BOTH WHITES AND NON-WHITES
HERE INDICATE GROWING SENSE OF FRUSTRATION AT APPARENT
UNWILLINGNESS/INABILITY OF GOVERNMENT LEADERS TO TAKE
ACTIONS TO END CONTINUING RIOTING IN CAPE TOWN AREA. THERE
GROWING TALK OF "WHITE BACKLASH" AND "VIGILANTE-ISM" AND
FEAR ON PART OF SOME OBSERVERS THAT ULTIMATE GOVERNMENT
RESPONSE WILL BE TO DECLARE STATE OF EMERGENCY AND USE
MILITARY TO CRACK DOWN HARD ON DEMONSTRATORS/RIOTERS.
END SUMMARY.

1. CONTINUING RIOTING IN CAPE TOWN AREA IS CREATING
GROWING SENSE OF CONCERN AND FRUSTRATION AS REFLECTED
IN OUR CONTACTS WITH BOTH WHITES AND "NON-WHITES."
MINISTER COLORED RELATIONS MIT AND MINISTER JUSTICE
KRUGER WERE BOTH REPORTED BY PRESS TO BE IN CAPE TOWN
SEPTEMBER 9 BUT SO FAR THERE NO INDICATION THEY MET WITH
ANYONE OTHER THEN THEIR OWN SUBORDINATES. FRIDAY'S
CAPE TIMES (SEPT. 10) REPORTS THAT MINISTER OF JUSTICE
REFUSED STATMENT AND WOULD NOT EVEN CONFIRM THAT HE HAD
BEEN IN CAPE TOWN.

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WM THERE INCREASING TALK OF "WHITE BACKLASH" AND "VIGILANTE-ISM" AS DISORDERS CONTINUE. CONTACTS IN CAFDA, A SOCIAL WELFARE ORGANIZATION FOR "COLOREDS" IN CAPE FLATS SAY BACKLASH ALREADY VISIBLE TO SOME EXTENT IN TERMS DRASTICALLY REDUCED CONTRIBUTIONS TO PRIVATE ORGANIZATION WHICH FINANCE LOW-COST MEALS PROGRAM IN "NON-WHITE" SCHOOLS. NEWS REPORTS INDICATE RUN ON GUNS AND AMMUNITION TO EXTENT DEALERS CANNOT KEEP UP WITH DEMAND. JUSTICE MINISTER'S COMMENTS THAT INDUSTRIALISTS MUST SHARE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROTECTION THEIR PROPERTY HAS ANGERED MANY BUT FACTORIES IN PAROW INDUSTRIAL AREA ARE NOW REPORTED HIRING PRIVATE SECURITY FIRMS TO PROVIDE GROUND SERVICES. SO-CALLED "VIGILANTE" PATROLS REPORTEDLY HAVE BEEN FORMED IN POSH STELLENBOSCH SUBURB OF UNION PARK FOLLOWING SERIOUS DAMAGE TO RESIDENCE OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL BY FIRE BOMB.

3. FOLLOWING EXPLOSION OF FIRE BOMB AT ELITE JAN VAN RIEBEECK HIGH SCHOOL HERE WHICH DAMAGED WOODWORKING ROOM, PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATOR MUNNIK ANGRILY ORDERED NEWS MEDIA NOT TO PRINT PHOTOGRAPH OF SCHOOL OR ANY OTHER PROVINCIAL FACILITY (MUNNIK'S DAUGHTERS ATTEND VAN RIEBEECK SCHOOL). NERVOUSNESS AMONG WHITES INDICATED BY CLOSURE TODAY (SEPT. 10) OF FOUR PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN WHITE SUBURB OF CLAREMONT (ONE OF WHICH ATTENDED BY MEMBER CONGEN OFFS FAMILY) FOLLOWING ALLEGED ADVICE BY POLICE THAT DEMONSTRATIONS LIKELY. HIGH-LEVEL POLICE OFFICIAL DENIED TO CONGEN OFF GIVING SUCH ADVICE OR HAVING ANY KNOWLEDGE OF LIKELY DISTURBANCES IN CLAREMONT.

4. AS STONING OF CARS IN MAJOR ROADS AND EVEN STONING OF WHITE RESIDENCES IN ONE SUBURB (KOMMETJIE-OECAN VIEW) CONTINUES, DEMANDS FOR AUTHORITIES TO CRACK DOWN LIKELY TO INCREASE. SOME OBSERVERS HERE, PARTICULARLY IN JOURNALISTIC CIRCLES, FEAR THAT ULTIMATE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE WILL BE TO DECLARE STATE OF EMERGENCY AND USE MILITARY TO QUELL DEMONSTRATIONS/RIOTS. LIKELY EFFECTS OF THIS WOULD BE INCREASED USE OF FORCE AND DRASTIC CURTAILMENT OF ABILITY OF NEWS MEDIA TO REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS.

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JPM AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (CAPE TOWN 999) THERE IS CONSIDERABLE BITTERNESS AMONG "NON-WHITES" TOWARD POLICE VIOLENCE AGAINST DEMONSTRATORS. OUR CONTACTS AMONG NON-WHITES TELL US THERE IS GROWING "ANTI-WHITE" SENTIMENT AMONG YOUTH AND EVEN THEIR OWN CHILDREN ARE INCREASINGLY CRITICAL OF PARENTS' SOCIAL CONTACT WITH WHITES, NO MATTER HOW "LIBERAL" THEY THOUGHT TO BE. BY SAME TOKEN, WELL-INFORMED CONTACTS TELL US THERE IS

VERY STRONG DISAPPROVAL AMONG NON-WHITE STUDENT ELEMENTS OF
RECENT NEGOTIATIONS BY SECRETARY KISSINGER WITH PRIME
MINISTER VORSTER WHICH THEY BELIEVE CONFERS ACCEPTANCE
AND RESPECTABILITY ON SAG WITHOUT BRINGING EFFEDTIVE
PRESSURE FOR CHANGE IN SAG RACE POLICIES. OUR SOURCES
INDICATE THIS IS STRONG EMOTIONALLY-FELT VIEW NOT READILY
SUSCEPTIBLE TO RATIONAL PERSUASION.
WHITE

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